

THE MOTHS OF WIMBLEDON: 1955-1997

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DURING 1962, in this journal, I listed the 300 species of macro-moths that I noted since 1955 when I first started running a mercury-vapour moth trap in the garden of my house, situated in a residential area of Wimbledon on high ground near the top of Wimbledon Hill, about half-a-mile from Wimbledon Common. There are many large gardens between our house and the Common, and many long-established trees. With few exceptions, which were individually noted, all the species recorded had been attracted to the trap.

In 1971 and 1978 I listed, also in this journal, 32 and 18 additional species, respectively, that had been caught, making a total of 350 species noted between 1955 and 1977. Since 1977, 51 additional species have been caught, bringing the total number of species recorded between 1955 and 1997 up to 401.

It has been interesting to compare the more recent fauna, ie., species noted in the 1970s and later, with those present in the two preceding decades. For instance, 25 species apparently resident in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s, of which more than one specimen had been caught, have not been noted subsequently. Conversely, 37 species, of which more than one specimen had been caught, had not been seen prior to the 1970s. The majority of species have, however, been noted in greater or lesser numbers throughout the whole 42 years the trap has been run, ie. are residents or more common migrants. In complete contrast, as many as 39 species have been represented by single specimens only; some at least of these are well-known migrants.

Three separate lists are appended: Table 1: apparently resident species recorded between 1955 and 1975, but not seen subsequently; Table 2: species recorded for the first time between 1970 and 1997; and Table 3: species of which single specimens only have been caught. The code numbers are those used by Plant (1993) in his work *Larger Moths of the London Area*.

Table 1. Species recorded between 1955 and 1975 but not caught subsequently.

The dates recorded are the last dates of capture of species of which more than one specimen had been noted.

GEOMETRIDAE

- 1720 *Orthonama obstipata* (Fabr.) 14.viii.69
1734 *Scotopteryx luridata* (Hufn.) 30.vi.68
1912 *Ennomos quercinaria* (Hufn.) 3.viii.69

SPHINGIDAE

- 1976 *Sphinx ligustri* (Linn.) 26.vii.56

NOTODONTIDAE

- 1995 *Cerura vinula* (Linn.) 25.vii.59

LYMANTRIIDAE

- 2031 *Leucoma salicis* (Linn.) 3.vii.60

NOCTUIDAE

- 2102 *Ochropleura plecta* (Linn.) 2.vi.58
2114 *Graphiphora augur* (Fabr.) 26.vi.65
2122 *Diarsia brunnea* (D.&S.) 6.vii.67
2136 *Naenia typica* (Linn.) 12.vii.64
2139 *Cerastis rubricosa* (D.&S.) 23.iv.63
2159 *Lacanobia suasa* (D.&S.) 26.viii.71

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| 2184 <i>Orthosia opima</i> (Hb.) 24.iv.60 | 2364 <i>Gortyna flavago</i> (D.&S.) 9.ix.60 |
| 2186 <i>O. gracilis</i> (D.&S.) 10.viii.60 | 2368 <i>Celaena leucostigma</i> (Hb.) 13.viii.69 |
| 2211 <i>Cucullia absinthii</i> (Linn.) 9.viii.72 | 2422 <i>Pseudopsis prasinana</i> (L.) <i>britannica</i> (Warren) (= <i>fagana</i> (Fabr.)) 3.vi.59 |
| 2301 <i>Dypterygia scabriuscula</i> (Linn.) 3.vii.60 | 2449 <i>Abrostola triplasia</i> (L.) (= <i>trigemina</i> (Werneb.)) 22.v.61 |
| 2316 <i>Cosmia affinis</i> (Linn.) 21.vii.59 | 2466 <i>Lygephila pastinum</i> (Treit.) 8.vii.66 |
| 2317 <i>C. diffinis</i> (Linn.) 11.viii.75 | |
| 2326 <i>Apamea crenata</i> (Hufn.) 29.vi.63 | |
| 2358 <i>Amphipoea fucosa</i> (Freyer) ssp. <i>paludis</i> (Tutt) 5.viii.68 | |

Table 2. Species recorded between 1970 and 1997, not caught previously.

The dates recorded are the last dates of capture of species of which more than one specimen had been noted.

DREPANIDAE

- 1647 *Watsonalla cultraria* (Fabr.) 3.viii.82

THYATIRIDAE

- 1658 *Cymatophorima diluta* (D.&S.) 19.ix.82

GEOMETRIDAE

- 1690 *Scopula imitaria* (Hb.) 8.vii.83
 1699 *Idaea rusticata* (D.&S.) 28.vii.75
 1708 *I. dimidiata* (Hufn.) 25.vii.74
 1758 *Eulithis pyraliata* (D.&S.) 4.vii.95
 1769 *Thera britannica* (Turn.) 1.vi.86
 1811 *Eupithecia tenuiata* (Hb.) 12.vii.76
 1828 *E. satyrata* (Hb.) 29.vii.74
 1842 *E. simplicata* (Haw.) 14.viii.72
 1844 *E. indigata* (Hb.) 16.v.82
 1857 *E. tantillaria* (Boisd.) 12.vi.77
 1859 *Chloroclytis chloerata* (Mab.) 12.v.74
 1864 *Chesias legatella* (D.&S.) 6.x.79
 1889 *Macaria notata* (Linn.) 19.viii.93
 1925 *Apocheima hispidaria* (D.&S.) 9.iii.78
 1957 *Lomographa bimaculata* (Fabr.) 17.vi.84

SPHINGIDAE

- 1978 *Hyloicus pinastri* (Linn.) 12.vii.70

NOTODONTIDAE

- 1997 *Furcula furcula* (Cl.) 5.viii.71

LYMANTRIIDAE

- 2029 *Euproctis chrysorrhoea* (Linn.) 2.viii.75
 2033 *Lymantria monacha* (Linn.) 26.vii.96

ARCTIIDAE

- 2035 *Thumatha senex* (Hb.) 7.vii.77
 2050 *Eilema lurideola* (Zinck.) 25.vii.79

NOCTUIDAE

- 2112 *Noctua interjecta* (Hb.) 14.viii.71
 2170 *Hadena compta* (D.&S.) 28.vi.79
 2240 *Lithophane leautieri* (Boisd.) 28.x.77
 2252 *Polymixis flavicincta* (D.&S.) 29.ix.80
 2256 *Eupsilia transversa* (Hufn.) 3.x.76
 2259 *Conistra ligula* (Esp.) 25.x.79
 2264 *Agrochola macilenta* (Hb.) 22.x.72
 2265 *A. helvola* (Linn.) 13.x.80
 2276 *Xanthia ocellaris* (Borkh.) 2.x.78
 2335 *Apamea scolopacina* (Esp.) 28.vii.83
 2379 *Coenobia rufa* (Haw.) 2.viii.94
 2403 *Heliothis peltigera* (D.&S.) 7.viii.94
 2423 *Nycteola revayana* (Scop.) 19.vii.76
 2473 *Laspeyria flexula* (D.&S.) 11.vii.86

Table 3. Species of which only one specimen has been caught: 1955-1997.

The dates recorded are the dates of capture of the species.

HEPIALIDAE

- 18 *Hepialis fusconebulosa* (DeG.) 6.vi.60

LASIOCAMPIDAE

- 1631 *Poecilocampa populi* (Linn.) 18.xi.94

GEOMETRIDAE

- 1674 *Iodis lactearia* (Linn.) 6.vii.57
 1678 *Cyclophora puppillaria* (Hb.) 16.x.59
 1681 *C. linearia* (Hb.) 7.vi.55
 1721 *Xanthohoe biriviata* (Borkh.) 8.vii.89

1745 <i>Larentia clavaria</i> (Haw.) 13.x.84	ARCTIIDAE
1752 <i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i> (Linn.) 22.viii.78	2037 <i>Millochrista miniata</i> (Forst.) 13.vii.84
1755 <i>Eulithis testata</i> (Linn.) 7.viii.81	2040 <i>Cybosia mesomella</i> (Linn.) 30.vi.68
1758 <i>E. pyraliata</i> (D.&S.) 4.vii.95	NOCTUIDAE
1765 <i>Cidaria fulvata</i> (Forst.) 24.vi.71	2149 <i>Polia trimaculosa</i> (Esp.) 26.vi.73
1776 <i>Colostygia pectinaria</i> (Knoch) 29.viii.85	2153 <i>Heliophobus reticulata</i> (Goeze) 27.vi.59
1804 <i>Perizoma bifaciata</i> (Crewe) 30.viii.77	2183 <i>Orthosia miniosa</i> (D.&S.) 24.iv.94
1807 <i>P. albulata</i> (D.&S.) 5.vii.82	2197 <i>Mythimna straminea</i> (Treit.) 21.viii.77
1855 <i>Eupithecia phoeniciata</i> (Ramb.) 15.ix.77	2203 <i>M. unipuncta</i> (Haw.) 1.x.85
1874 <i>Euchoeca nebulata</i> (Scop.) 12.vi.89	2235 <i>Lithophane semibrunnea</i> (Haw.) 13.iv.79
1875 <i>Asthena albulata</i> (Hufn.) 17.v.89	2248 <i>Dryobotodes eremita</i> (Fabr.) 26.ix.83
1881 <i>Trichopteryx carpinata</i> (Borkh.) 10.v.89	2391 <i>Chilodes maritimus</i> (Tausch.) 19.viii.76
1885 <i>Abraxas sylvata</i> (Scop.) 20.vii.96	2400 <i>Heliothis armigera</i> (Hb.) 22.x.88
1888 <i>Ligdia adustata</i> (D.&S.) 19.viii.94	2418 <i>Earias clorana</i> (Linn.) 4.vii.59
1896 <i>Semithisa brunneata</i> (Thumb.) 25.vi.60	2475 <i>Parascotia fuliginosa</i> (Linn.) 9.viii.91
1903 <i>Plagodis pulveraria</i> (Linn.) 4.vi.82	2476 <i>Hypena crassalis</i> (Fabr.) 27.vii.85
1910 <i>Apeira syringaria</i> (Linn.) 2.vi.59	
1919 <i>Selenia tetralunaria</i> (Hufn.) 20.vii.87	
1950 <i>Parectropis similaria</i> (Hufn.) 29.v.89	

References

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Range expansion in the Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus* (L.) (Lep.: Nymphalidae)

In Britain, the northern limit of the Ringlet's distribution is correlated with the 14°C July isotherm. The species is absent from areas over 300m in the north of its range but also from large areas of lowland central Scotland and northern England where it formerly occurred in the past.

When I moved to North East Fife in 1978 I was struck by the apparent contrast in the ranges of Meadow Brown and Ringlet. The former species was common and widespread over the whole of Fife, while the Ringlet, although common and numerous in localities in North East Fife District, appeared to be entirely absent from Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline Districts. This pattern of distribution was confirmed by Thomson (1980, *The Butterflies of Scotland: A Natural History*). I began mapping butterflies by 1km squares in 1979 and encouraged other naturalists working in the area to send me their records. By 1982 local mapping confirmed the Ringlet in OS grid squares NO 10, NO 11, NO 21, NO 22, NO 30, NO 31, NO 32, NO 41, NO 42, NO 51 and NO 52. Ringlet were apparently widespread north of a line extending east by north-east from Tarhill, in Kinross, on the northern shore of